

**Introduced by Senators Wolk and Galgiani**

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Levine)

July 16, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to the International  
Year of Soils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 83, as introduced, Wolk. International Year of Soils.

This measure would declare 2015 as the International Year of Soils, and recognize the importance of healthy soils as a critical resource supplying an abundance of food, diverse habitats, water storage, and climate resiliency.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, For more than 60 consecutive years, California  
2 has been the number one agricultural state in the nation, producing  
3 more than 400 crop and livestock products and accounting for  
4 approximately 50 percent of the nation's supply of fruits,  
5 vegetables, and nuts; and  
6 WHEREAS, Ninety-five percent of our food is directly or  
7 indirectly produced on our soils and the essential nutrients they  
8 contain; and  
9 WHEREAS, It can take up to 1,000 years to form one centimeter  
10 of soil, and, with 33 percent of all global soil resources degraded,  
11 critical limits are being reached, making stewardship an urgent  
12 matter; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the Food and Agriculture  
2 Organization of the United Nations, more than 805 million people  
3 across the globe face hunger and malnutrition, and future  
4 population growth will require an approximate 60 percent increase  
5 in food production; and

6 WHEREAS, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
7 United Nations launched the International Year of Soils on World  
8 Soil Day, December 5, 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, On January 6, 2015, the United States Department  
10 of Agriculture began its celebration of the International Year of  
11 Soils to highlight the importance of healthy soils for food security,  
12 ecosystems functions, and resilient farms and ranches; and

13 WHEREAS, California has launched its Healthy Soils Initiative  
14 and is pioneering efforts to incentivize building soil organic matter  
15 and provide research, education, and technical support to facilitate  
16 healthy soils and ensuring interagency coordination and  
17 collaboration; and

18 WHEREAS, Ensuring healthier soils by increasing the carbon  
19 content and soil organic matter can help enhance the long-term  
20 sustainability of California agriculture and its resiliency to climate  
21 change; and

22 WHEREAS, Improved soil health increases soil's water holding  
23 capacity and water infiltration rate, which can help optimize the  
24 management of California's scarce water supply; and

25 WHEREAS, Increasing soil health helps to improve food crop  
26 yields, help to increase soil fertility and the ability to hold plant  
27 nutrients and water, supports beneficial biological microbial  
28 diversity and populations, reduces soil erosion, and can be used  
29 to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases by sequestering carbon;  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, The building of soil organic matter can be  
32 supported by several management practices, including, but not  
33 limited to, minimal soil disturbance, residue soil cover, the use of  
34 cover crops, and the utilization of compost; and

35 WHEREAS, In 1997, the California Legislature enacted SB 389  
36 (Monteith), Chapter 331, Statutes of 1997, commemorating  
37 completion of the state's most comprehensive soil inventory by  
38 designating San Joaquin Soil as the official State Soil; and

39 WHEREAS, We recognize the essential role of all of  
40 California's soils in supporting a thriving California economy and

1 healthy environment and ensuring a sustainable and food secure  
2 future; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
5 hereby declares 2015 as the International Year of Soils; and be it  
6 further

7 *Resolved*, That on the occasion of the International Year of Soils,  
8 the Legislature recognizes the importance of healthy soils as a  
9 critical resource supplying an abundance of food, diverse habitats,  
10 water storage, and climate resiliency; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
12 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.